

THE MEANING OF THE ASHES

During the service on Ash Wednesday, members of the congregation are invited to come forward and have a small cross of ashes made on their forehead. The cross of ashes reminds us of three important things.

(1) Ashes confront us with our mortality and remind us that we will die. We hear the words of God spoken to Adam and Eve, "Dust you are and to dust you shall return."

(2) Ashes are a Biblical sign of repentance. Putting on sackcloth and ashes was a visible indication of sorrow over sin.

(3) Ashes are a sign of cleansing and life. A basic ingredient of soap was lye, made from ashes.

LENT 2026 OPPORTUNITIES FOR GIVING MINNESOTA FOOD SHARE – MARCH CAMPAIGN

This March, we join food shelves, faith communities, businesses, and organizations across Minnesota in acting to end hunger and food insecurity. Monetary donations are always welcome and checks payable to KRLC with "Food Shelf" in the memo line are much appreciated. During the March campaign, for every \$1 given 2.5 meals can be provided. Donations received in February will be held until March to receive the matching funds available.

LENTEN LOVE BOX

We encourage the congregation to bring their loose change or monetary hunger offerings to church and each Sunday place them in a Lenten Love Box we will set up in the sanctuary entry ways. Remembering the hungry is a traditional and important act of charity during the Lenten season! Donations to the Lenten Love Box will be designated for ELCA World Hunger.

WORSHIP LEADERS

Pastor Mark Holman

Organist/Pianist: Patti Stoddard

Clarinet: Lawrence Burkhard

Ushers/Greeters: Melanie McMillion & Ed Lee

Lector: Melanie McMillion

Altar: Mary von Goertz and Randi Alreck

Communion Asst: Vicky Gorman

Counters: Melanie McMillion

Live stream: Tech Team

**** Emergency Contact: Pastor Mark Holman 612-214-0392**

Knife River Lutheran Church

*Wherever you are in your journey of faith,
You are welcome here.*

6:30 Ash Wednesday Worship Service

The Service of the Ashes February 18, 2026

(We gather in silence)

Psalm 51 (read responsively)

Music Offering

Invocation

Hymn #324 *"In the Cross of Christ I Glory"*

Prayer of the Day

Gracious God, out of your love and mercy you breathed into dust the breath of life, creating us to serve you and our neighbors. Call forth our prayers and acts of kindness, and strengthen us to face our mortality with confidence in the mercy of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Music: JOYFUL. "Sicut Cervus"

Sicut cervus desiderat ad fontes aquarum

(As the deer longs for the cool springs)

Ita desiderat ad te Deus

(So my heart longs for Thee, O God.)

First Reading: 2nd Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

Gospel Reading: Matthew 6: 1-6, 16-21

C: Glory to you, O Lord

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Meditation

Hymn of the Day # 592 *"Just As I Am"*

Invitation to the Discipline of Lent

Friends in Christ, today with the whole church we enter the time of remembering Jesus' passover from death to life, and our life in Christ is renewed.

We begin this holy season by acknowledging our need for repentance and for God's mercy. We are created to experience joy in communion with God, to love one another, and to live in harmony with creation. But our sinful rebellion separates us from

God, our neighbors, and creation, so that we do not enjoy the life our creator intended.

As disciples of Jesus, we are called to a discipline that contends against evil and resists whatever leads us away from love of God and neighbor. I invite you, therefore, to the discipline of Lent – self-examination and repentance, prayer and fasting, sacrificial giving and works of love – strengthened by the gifts of word and sacrament. Let us continue our journey through these forty days to the great Three Days of Jesus' death and resurrection.

(Silence)

Confession of Sin. (ELW - p. 252)

Imposition of Ashes

Hymn #599 *"Lord Jesus, Think on Me"*

Offering *"Create in Me"*

Prayer

Words of Institution

Lord's Prayer

Distribution *"Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross"*

Blessing

Prayer

Benediction

Dismissal:

Pastor: Go forth into the world to serve God with gladness;

Be of good courage;

Hold fast to that which is good;

Render to no one evil for evil;

Strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak;

Help the afflicted; honor all people;

Love and serve God, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

"Thanks be to God!"

Closing Hymn #629 *"Abide With Me"*

Postlude

